



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
FOR COUNTERNARCOTICS

SUBJECT: Response to Department Drug Demand Reduction Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department Drug Demand Reduction memorandum dated April 17, 2003. The policy is objectionable both from an accession and separation standpoint.

Under the proposed policy, applicants who test positive for drugs within 72 hours of reporting to active duty would be judged to be beyond redemption without the possibility of command judgment, despite sunk investments of more than \$12,000 per applicant. They would be discharged from the service.

Furthermore, the revised policy establishes a minimum consequence of discharge from military service for all current military members who knowingly use a prohibited drug; and re-entry into the Armed Forces would be prevented. Again, any possibility of command judgment is removed, and sunk investments of between \$25,000 and hundreds of thousands of dollars per person would be ignored.

This revised policy basically ignores command judgment and decision-making, and contradicts the "whole person evaluation" that generally characterizes military personnel management. If there is a problem caused by current policy, its direct and quantified consequences should be presented alongside the proposed alternatives so that the choices of leadership are explicit.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. My POC is LTC Mauhee W. Edmondson, (703) 697-9273.

William J. Carr  
Acting Deputy Under Secretary  
(Military Personnel Policy)

cc: PDUS D (P&R)

